

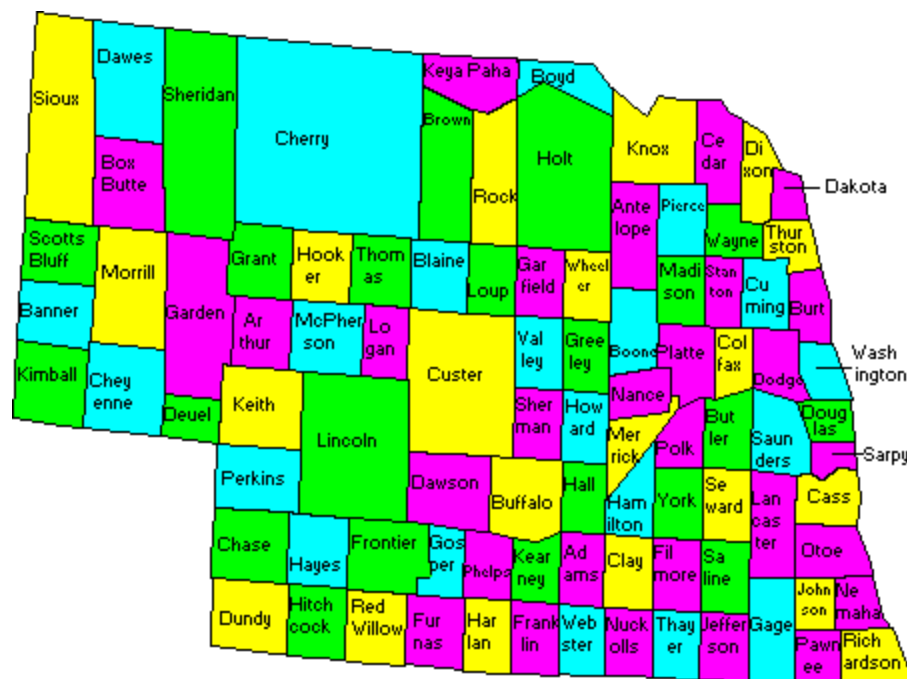
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Nebraska

Profile of Drug Indicators

August 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Nebraska

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 1,578,385 (1990 Census), 1,666,028 (1999 Estimate)
- Age: 27.2% under age 18; 14.1% over age 65
- Race/Ethnicity: 89.0% white; 3.5% African American; 0.7% American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut; 0.7% Asian or Pacific Islander; 0.9% Other; 2.2% Hispanic
- Gender: 48.7% male; 51.2% female
- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level: 10.3%

Politics²

- Governor: Mike Johanns
- Lt. Governor: Dave Maurstad
- Attorney General: Don Stenberg
- Secretary of State: Scott Moore
- U.S. Senate: Chuck Hagel (R), J. Robert Kerrey (D)
- U.S. Representatives: Doug Bereuter (R), Lee Terry (R), Bill Barrett (R)

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
The Midwest HIDTA, which was designated in 1996, addresses the problems of methamphetamine use, production, and trafficking in a six-state region consisting of counties in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The problems of methamphetamine have exploded in this area in the past several years and violent crime has similarly increased at alarming rates. This region's location makes it a fertile environment for the production and distribution of methamphetamine. This methamphetamine is usually either produced locally or imported primarily by Mexican organizations.
- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantee awarded by ONDCP in conjunction with Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP):⁴
 - \$96,015.62 awarded to Westside Community Schools, District 66 of Omaha.
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed (EOWS)⁵
Omaha has been recognized as an official Weed and Seed program site. The Weed and Seed Strategy of this city is linked with the Metropolitan Drug Task Force, Metropolitan Gang Task Force, and Midwest HIDTA. Among other things, these task forces work to enforce the zero tolerance fight against drugs, gangs, and criminal activity. Police Captains from the Northeast and Southeast Precincts of Omaha have organized Precinct Advisory Councils (PAC). The efforts of these councils focus

mainly on identifying problem houses and organizing clean-ups of these houses. PACs also address a variety of juvenile justice issues including drug violations.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In Nebraska, during 1998, there were 8,237 arrests for drug abuse violations. Of those arrested, 1,185 were under the age of 18.⁶

Arrests in Nebraska, 1998

Offense	Under 18	Total
Murder Non-negligent Manslaughter	9	55
Forcible Rape	18	177
Robbery	126	363
Aggravated Assault	146	962
Burglary	581	1,232
Larceny/Theft	4,568	10,315
Motor Vehicle Theft	289	500
Arson	66	122
Drug Abuse Violations	1,185	8,237
Driving Under the Influence	464	12,568
Liquor Laws	2,605	10,069

- In Omaha, Nebraska during 1999, 61.5% of the 449 male arrestees sampled and 62.2% of the 90 female arrestees sampled tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrest.⁷
- 94.7% of the females arrested for drug offenses tested positive for drug use at the time of their arrest.⁸

Percent Positive for Drugs, by Drug and Offense Type, Omaha, 1999

Type of Offense	Cocaine		Marijuana		Meth.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	20.8	13.3	50.9	46.7	6.9	0.0	57.9	60.0
Property	27.7	40.9	49.2	40.9	6.2	9.1	63.1	68.2
Drug	38.2	57.9	61.8	52.6	18.2	31.6	78.2	94.7
Sales	42.9	--	85.7	--	28.6	--	85.7	--
Possession	39.2	57.9	60.8	52.6	17.6	31.6	78.4	94.7
Other	18.6	28.6	53.0	23.8	7.7	7.1	62.3	50.0

- In 1998 the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) recorded 291 meth-related cases that resulted in 211 arrests. From January to March of 1999, NSP recorded 92 meth-related cases with 42 arrests.⁹

Drugs

- Juvenile disorders, drug use and trafficking, and violence were identified by the Nebraska Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Policy Board as the most serious problems facing the State of Nebraska. Nebraska is a large, rural state consisting of 93 counties of various size and population. Nebraska has experienced a rapid increase in methamphetamine use, distribution and trafficking during the past few years. Arrests for drug violations increased substantially from 1990 to 1995. Arrests of juveniles for drug violations increased as well.¹⁰
- Much of the methamphetamine in Nebraska is transported from Texas or Mexico. Nebraska is predominantly rural and much of their economy is rooted in an agricultural-related industry. Thousands of Mexican Americans and Mexican Nationals are employed in such industries and are often exploited by trafficking organizations in their effort to import and set up meth distribution networks. Also, an abundance of jobs in food and cleaning services as well as in meatpacking plants has resulted in an increase in illegal aliens who often facilitate meth importation.¹¹

Juveniles¹²

- Among Nebraska high school students surveyed, 31.2% reported using marijuana at some point in their lives.

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, Nebraska, 1999

	Females	Males	Total
Lifetime Marijuana Use	28.0	34.6	31.2
Current Marijuana Use	12.5	18.9	15.6
Lifetime Cocaine Use	6.0	7.8	6.8
Current Cocaine Use	2.2	2.5	2.3
Lifetime Inhalant Use	11.0	15.0	12.9
Current Inhalant Use	2.7	4.4	3.5
Lifetime Heroin Use	1.3	2.5	1.9
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	7.4	8.3	7.8
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	1.8	3.5	2.6
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.1	2.6	1.8
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	3.4	6.8	5.0

Enforcement

- Nebraska had 4,406 law enforcement employees as of October 1998. The number of officers was 3,170 and the number of civilian employees was 1,236.¹³
- Midwest HIDTA Initiatives:¹⁴
 - Tri-State, Souix City Task Force: a co-located, multi-agency task force with members from Nebraska, Iowa, and S. Dakota law enforcement agencies who collaborate to target the importation, manufacture, and distribution of methamphetamine within the region.
 - The following task forces enhance and provide direct support to the anti-methamphetamine efforts within their respective areas:
 - Metropolitan Task Force, Omaha

- Tri-City Task Force, Grand Island area
- Lincoln-Lancaster Task Force, Lincoln
- WING Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, Nebraska Panhandle area

Trafficking and Seizures

- In 1998 the total number of marijuana plants eradicated in Nebraska was 3,211.¹⁵
- Seizures of methamphetamine by the Nebraska State Patrol increased by 1226% from 9,856 grams in 1996 to 130,763 grams in 1997. Seizures of meth for the first three months of 1998 increased by 197% from 2,788 grams in 1997 to 8,297 grams in 1998.¹⁶

Consequences of Use¹⁷

- In 1998, there were 44 drug abuse deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in Omaha.
- At this time, there were 141 total drug mentions involved in these deaths.

Selected Drugs Mentioned in Drug Abuse Deaths, Omaha, 1997-1998

Drug Type	1997	1998
Cocaine	9	14
Heroin/Morphine	3	4
Marijuana/Hashish	18	12
Methadone	2	1
Methamphetamine/Speed	7	5
All other drugs	36	73
Total Drug Mentions	112	141

Courts

- In 1998, Nebraska had a total of 274 sentenced Federal defendants, of which 137 (50%) had been arrested for drug trafficking.¹⁸
- Within the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nebraska, the number of meth defendants increased 79% between 1997 and 1998.¹⁹
- Drug Courts²⁰
 - Data from March 2000 show that Nebraska currently has one drug court that has been operating for over two years. This drug court is located in Omaha.
 - At this time, there were also five drug courts being planned in Nebraska.
 - Two of these planned drug courts are in Lincoln (Lancaster County); one is in Sidney (Cheyenne Co.); one in Papillion (Sarpy Co.); and a Tribal drug court is being planned for the Macy/Omaha Tribe of Nebraska.

Corrections

- At midyear 1999 (June 30), there were 3,663 prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Nebraska. On June 30, 1998, there were 3,519 such prisoners in Nebraska. These numbers represent a 4.1% increase from the middle of 1998 to the middle of 1999 in the number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities in Nebraska.²¹

- At the end of 1999 (December 31), there were 20,462 adults on probation in Nebraska. At the beginning of 1999 (January 1), there had been 16,527 adults on probation in Nebraska.²²
- Nebraska's adult parole population at the beginning of 1999 totaled 624 and decreased to 612 at yearend 1999.²³

Treatment

- At Grand Island's Alcoholism and Drug Treatment Center, 397 of 745 patients admitted had a diagnosis of abuse or dependency on methamphetamine during FY98. Of these 397 patients, 71% were over age 18.²⁴
- During 1997 in Nebraska there were 97 drug treatment facilities with 4,197 clients. The number of clients being treated for both alcohol and drug abuse was 2,140, those treated for drug abuse only was 444, and the number treated for alcohol abuse only was 1,613.²⁵

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² State of Nebraska Web site: <http://www.state.ne.us/>

³ ONDCP Web site, HIDTA section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/midw-main.html>

⁴ Drug-Free Communities Grantees:

<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>

⁵ EOWS Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>

⁶ FBI, *Crime in the United States 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>

⁷ NIJ 1999 *Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*, July 2000: <http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/99adltfind.pdf>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Tri-City Federal Drug Task Force, "A Look at the Fight Against the Methamphetamine Trade in Central Nebraska, and the Role of the Midwest HIDTA in the Effort to Combat It," June 3, 1999

¹⁰ Nebraska's Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Strategy 1997-2000, February 1997

¹¹ ONDCP Web site, HIDTA section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/midw-main.html>

¹² CDC, *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey – United States, 1999*, June 2000: <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Publications/mmwr/ss/ss4905.pdf>

¹³ FBI, *Crime in the United States 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>

¹⁴ ONDCP Web site, HIDTA section: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/midw-main.html>

¹⁵ Bureau of Justice Statistics 1998 *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, 1999: <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook/1995/pdf/t439.pdf>

¹⁶ Tri-City Federal Drug Task Force, "A Look at the Fight Against the Methamphetamine Trade in Central Nebraska, and the Role of the Midwest HIDTA in the Effort to Combat It," June 3, 1999

¹⁷ SAMHSA, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1997*, December 1999

¹⁸ United States Sentencing Commission Web site: <http://www.ussc.gov/judpack/jp1998.htm>

¹⁹ Tri-City Federal Drug Task Force, "A Look at the Fight Against the Methamphetamine Trade in Central Nebraska, and the Role of the Midwest HIDTA in the Effort to Combat It," June 3, 1999

²⁰ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000

²¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1999*, April 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim99.htm>

²² Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Probation and Parole in 1999*, July 2000: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pp99pr.pdf>

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Tri-City Federal Drug Task Force, “A Look at the Fight Against the Methamphetamine Trade in Central Nebraska, and the Role of the Midwest HIDTA in the Effort to Combat It,” June 3, 1999

²⁵ Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Uniform Facility Data Set (UFDS) survey, October 1, 1997

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